

Cash limits block rise in home students

by Ngalo Crequer

Nearly 2,000 more home undergraduates have entered university this year but with no extra government funds to meet the growth well-qualified candidates are being turned away, according to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals.

Its bleak warning this week was in response to a Parliamentary answer on student numbers. The committee went on to say that "if present financial policies persist, more good candidates will be disappointed in the future".

The figures show a 2.3 per cent increase in home undergraduate numbers and 3.7 per cent increase in postgraduate over last year. The CVCP says that the undergraduate increase is limited to the number of 18-year-olds and universities have done all they can to ensure

that opportunities for school leavers does not deteriorate despite lack of funds.

The Government also gave the first official figures for overseas numbers, showing a decrease of 9.3 per cent in undergraduates and 11.1 per cent in postgraduates for October, 1980.

The decision to make universities charge full cost fees to overseas students is blamed for the drop in recruitment and universities have also lost money by charging the minimum rather than actual cost of tuition fees.

"The future is grim. By next year a very much larger proportion of the overseas students in universities will no longer have the prospect of being 'continuing' students and will be forced to pay the new higher fees," said the CVCP.

"This will certainly have the most serious financial implications for universities since tuition fees income from overseas students now pays for a significant part of the essential running costs of universities," it said.

The committee said that by 1982/83 the Government would have removed some 10 per cent of universities' income from the recurrent grant and substantial fee increases would be needed to get anywhere near recouping the loss. However, the level of the minimum fee even if the present intake could be maintained.

But overseas undergraduate applications for next year are running at some 40 per cent below this year's reduced level. Still heavier fee increases, together with the effects of a strong pound and the high cost of living in Britain, might

well drive still more students to study in other countries where overall costs are much lower," said the committee.

Talks are taking place between the Government and the University Grants Committee on likely fee levels for overseas students next year. The UGC will probably recommend a minimum fee and leave universities to decide whether they should charge above it. There has also been some discussion on whether university and public sector overseas students fees should be more in line.

Any new fee levels will be bound to reflect the rise in inflation which will make the decision whether to charge very high fees to maximize income, or to charge minimum fees in the hope of getting more students, more difficult.

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Dean threatens to resign in OU promotions row

by Charlotte Barry

The Open University's dean of technology has threatened to resign after a policy decision to promote only one Milton Keynes-based academic to the post of senior lecturer this year.

The matter will come to a head at next week's senate meeting when academics will debate a motion put by the technology faculty board asking the university's promotions committee to reconsider its decision.

Academic promotions are considered from now put forward to a committee elected by senate by individual constituencies, consisting of the eight faculties and both the regional senior counsellors and staff tutors.

This year, out of 24 names submitted by the faculties only one was promoted to senior lecturer by the academic staff promotions committee. In the OU's 13 regions four out of eight recommended academics

were promoted to senior counsellor and four out of eight to staff tutor.

The resolution put to the senate by the technology faculty board requires the committee to "reconsider the cases of the unsuccessful candidates for 1980 promotion on the basis of separate constituencies and of each agreed faculty promotion policy statement".

Members of the technology faculty are angry because they believe the committee has taken no account of its staff planning policy. This is in spite of a request from the senate for individual deans to develop a long-term strategy for promotion.

Dissent has been growing for some time over the promotions procedure. Opportunities for promotion within the OU are particularly slender because of its unusually high proportion of staff under the age of 40. It has been calculated that the average age for promotion to senior lecturer is 57.

Redundancy compromise

A compromise which could represent the last hope of ending the dispute between lecturers and their local authority employers over redundancy procedures has been put forward by union officials.

It will be discussed today at a key meeting of the national joint council on lecturers' conditions of service, whose very existence has been threatened by the row only months after its inauguration.

The effect of the plan which officials regard as the end of the road in the dispute is to preserve the 1975 procedures agreement in areas where it has already been endorsed by the local education authority or actually used.

It is a tactical retreat from the hard line previously pursued by the National Association of Teachers in Higher Education, which has argued that the agreement, which embodies a recommendation that one year's notice of redundancy should be given, should be binding on all 104 education authorities.

But the price employers are to be asked to pay for this concession is a firm commitment to negotiate new and improved rules.

The union intends to press for a package of changes which would include the right to voluntary redundancy, which will provide for voluntary means such as premature retirement compensation.

Teaching shortfall revealed

A major shortfall in the Department of Education's 1980 target for admissions to 32 and specialist one-year courses in 56 colleges and 22 polytechnics has been confirmed by figures released by the Central Clearing House.

The figures released this week show a 38 per cent shortfall in planned numbers of 3,100 admissions. Although 5,688 admissions were admitted to 32 and specialist courses, 314 of these on one-year courses in business studies, craft design and technology and music.

The majority of applicants who did not start courses (2,949) had been offered conditional places for which they failed to qualify and 2,789 had withdrawn their applications.

A shortfall was forecast by the department in the number of applications which went down from 15,889 in 1979 to 11,546 this year. The figures indicate that the 1980 target of 15,000 admissions was not realistic.

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Sir Keith attacked on Finniston

by Robin McKie
Science Correspondent

Industry Secretary Sir Keith Joseph was this week accused of "deliberately avoiding parliamentary debate and decision over the setting up of a chartered body to control the engineering profession."

The attack was made by Mr Arthur Palmer who said, in a Commons debate, that Sir Keith had succumbed to pressure from the country's engineering institutions to reject the Finniston report's recommendation for a powerful, independent statutory engineering authority.

The proposed chartered body was also criticized this week by the Royal Society which has written to Sir Keith to express concern about the ineffectual make-up of the proposed authority. "We see little value in a new body comparable to the existing Council of Engineering Institutions," states the letter which is signed by the society's president, secretary and vice-president.

In his Commons speech, Mr Palmer said Sir Keith had made a great blunder in deciding to have a more chartered authority responsible to the Privy Council. "A key factor of the Finniston report was the emphasis that it placed on the statutory registration and licensing of engineers," he said.

This should be carried out by a powerful independent authority. Instead Sir Keith had chosen a body that would be a "pale shadow" of what the Finniston report proposed, under the auspices of that somewhat medieval body, the Privy Council.

Mr Palmer also criticized the engineering institutions for failing to consult their members over their views about the form of the engineering authority. He revealed that he had recently written to the Privy Council to complain about the lack of consultation among the institutions. It is now understood that Mr Palmer's own institution, the electrical engineers, has been asked to join the Privy Council to account for procedures for consulting members.

Mr Palmer urged that the authority be set up as a statutory body, not merely a body with powers conferred by the Privy Council. He said that the authority should be brought in to give MPs the opportunity to look at its detailed proposals in committee.

In his letter to Sir Keith, Mr Suggen highlighted four main areas of concern about the proposed make-up of the authority, including the dual charter proposed by the engineering institutions president in response to Sir Keith's original plan.

The new body would have sufficient powers, would be independent, would not be subject to all-increased political interference, and would provide independent recommendations for a chairman of the authority. The authority would have a council made up of five professional engineers, five lay members, three educationalists and two scientists. The Royal Society urges.

NEXT WEEK

Rosemary Murray on New Hall
Denis Donoghue on Geoffrey Hartman

Ali Mazrui on academic freedom
Maurice Cowling on Whitehead

MSC's training blueprint
AUF council preview

by Robin McKie
Science Correspondent

Cash limits could force small authorities to give up polys

by Peter David

See local authorities could have to give up their polytechnic if the cuts announced in the Rate Support Grant settlement next week fall heavily on higher education.

This was the grim warning given this week by Mr Jack Springett, education officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, on the eve of a meeting between councillors and Dr Rhodri Boyson, the under secretary for higher education.

At the meeting in London today, Dr Boyson was expected to tell the authorities of his plans for the size of next year's Advanced Further Education Pool, the central fund which reimburses councils for their spending on polytechnics and colleges.

There is a growing fear among local govern-

ment leaders that the AFE pool will be cut disproportionately, perhaps by up to 5 per cent, simply because it is the only major area of local education spending on which the government can impose a direct cash limit.

Mr Springett said that a cut of 5 per cent in the pool, which this year was set at £375m, would be totally unrealistic. It might satisfy authorities which contribute to the pool, but small authorities which provide polytechnics would be placed in an impossible situation.

"If you take about 5 per cent off the pool you are well into the realm of the unrealistic," he said. "Authorities just would not be able to get rid of teachers at that rate."

"It will call into question the willingness of authorities to go on doing this job. It will increase the temptation for some authorities to withdraw from advanced further education altogether."

Spending row splits ranks of SRC

by Robin McKie
Science Correspondent

A furious row has broken out between two of the main organizational branches of the Science Research Council. The engineering board has launched a bitter attack on the science board, which supports research in basic areas of chemistry, physics and biology, for its massive overspending this year.

There were particularly angry scenes at the engineering board's last meeting when members heard that the SRC wanted to reduce £1.8m from its budget to bail out the science board which has overspent by about £3m. The money will not be paid back for another two or three years and furious board members passed a unanimous motion denouncing the plan.

This motion is to be discussed at next Wednesday's full meeting of the SRC when chairman Sir Geoffrey Allen will have to control a very heated debate. The engineering representatives are particularly furious that their programmes are suffering because of science board actions which they consider irresponsible.

The issue has caused a "great deal of strong feeling and the SRC faces the possibility of several resignations if the row is not now carefully headed," it is very unusual for an SRC board to pass such a strong motion, and unprecedented for one board to attack another in such a way.

One likely solution to the problem will be for other council boards to increase their support for the science board. In particular, the astronomy, space and radio board may supply a further £500,000 to help them out.

Teesside cut will affect standards

by David Jobbins

Teesside Polytechnic is facing a financial crisis in which senior staff have warned that academic standards will be seriously affected.

Cleveland County Council has told the polytechnic to cut its budget for the current financial year by £22,000. Director Dr Michael Langford says this means a 40 per cent cut in controllable expenditure, which includes wages, rent, rates and major charges have been paid.

The economies have to be made by the end of the financial year. The impact will be even harsher. The polytechnic's academic board accepted they can be asked to make in a resolution forwarded to governors. "They can only be asked at the cost of very serious and long-term effects on academic standards."

Senior academics described the demand as "grave" and the academic board specifically drew attention to the serious problems faced by the polytechnic which led directly to the highly critical visit by the Council for National Academic Awards in 1978.

It was exactly a year ago that Teesside emerged from the cloud of that visit and the subsequent high-profile inquiry. Last December the CNAA lifted its threat to withdraw approval from the polytechnic following a massive injection of cash by Cleveland council.

The debt the polytechnic owes to Cleveland for its support is acknowledged by the council. "The present cut should perhaps be seen in that light," he said in a personal message to staff in the polytechnic's news letter.

He warned: "We shall emerge from this cost-cutting exercise next

April to meet challenges which will test us again in the next financial year. But with your support we shall continue to warrant the distinction of polytechnic status."

The polytechnic's branches of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education have warned that the cuts will lead to a deterioration in the educational service offered. Among staff there is a general recognition that Dr Langford is doing his best to minimize the impact on standards.

Cleveland has been forced to make economies because its budget for all its services by more than £4m by the end of the year.

The polytechnic's share corresponds with the drop in expected income attributable to the fall in overseas students numbers. "Our enrolments" have increased dramatically.

Redundancy talks near breakdown

between lecturers and their authority employers over redundancy procedures are perilously close to breaking down.

The management panel effectively rejected a compromise put forward by the Association of Teachers in Higher Education and the Association of Lecturers in Higher Education.

The long-standing dispute over the status of the 1975 redundancy agreement, or last year's meeting of the national joint council on lecturers' conditions of service, was union leaders detected a growing attitude among employers to accept that the agreement, which recommends a year's notice of redundancy, should be binding even on authorities which have not accepted it.

After the meeting, Mr Peter Palmer said after the meeting: "The executive is meeting this week when there will undoubtedly be a very detailed and urgent discussion of the matter."

"I think we will wish to continue negotiations but the position of the management panel will once again be a question in the minds of the members of the whole future of the NJC."

Both employers and union have agreed to set up a negotiating committee to negotiate a new agreement for both parties. The new agreement will be subject to a statutory control under the recommendation of Teachers Act.

Athlone Press up for sale again

by Ngalo Crequer

The Athlone Press, sold by the University of London last year, is again up for sale and its present owners have announced their withdrawal from all book publishing.

The Bemrose Corporation is holding discussions with interested parties to try to ensure the continued survival of three of its departments, Athlone, Mansell and Scholar. Redundancy notices have been given to 50 staff, six of whom are at Athlone, and they will expire at the end of the year.

Mr John Commander, Bemrose Publishing's chairman, said: "This week 'We have had to serve redundancy notices in the light of our decision to disinvest but we are having talks with a number of people to try to develop a framework in which the Athlone Press in its present persons may in fact be continued."

"With hindsight one could say it was a mistake to buy it, but at the time it was very well considered by ourselves and London University and it was all in the context of 'situation'."

Although he would not give any figures on losses, he said the Athlone Press was in a "distinctly loss-making condition". The university sold the Press in February 1979, after rejecting an earlier recommendation to close it down, because it felt unable to justify the large capital investment it needed.

An Academic Advisory Board, which includes academics from the university, will discuss the situation next week. But the board, which was not informed in advance of the Bemrose decision, has no



managerial function and only advises on titles and choice of programme.

Dr John Black, principal of Bedford College, and chairman of the board, said this week: "We are naturally very distressed to have learned that Bemrose is no longer to be concerned with book publishing and very much hope that a suitable arrangement can be made to continue the imprint. I am sure the board will give its strongest support to any arrangement that can be made."

The Bemrose decision highlights the precarious situation in which academic publishing now finds itself. Several university presses are experiencing severe financial problems. Earlier this year, Liverpool University Press

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£98 fees 'put OU out of reach'

by Charlotte Barry

The Government-imposed 46 per cent increase in Open University student fees strikes at the very root of its openness, a Labour MP told the Commons last week.

Mr Ted Graham MP for Edmonstone, who is an OU graduate, said that the rise from £67 to £98 in tuition fees next year was a "whopping increase". The rise should have been to £80 a year to keep pace with inflation.

He told the Commons that due to the deteriorating economic situation an increasing proportion of students offered a place at the university later declined it. "I strongly suspect that the trend will accelerate," he said.

Mr Graham called on the Conservative Government to dispel any impression that it is hostile or antipathetic to the continuing development of the OU.

"I believe that the ethic of self help has a certain attraction to the Conservative philosophy, and that the concept of value for money and comparative cost for the same product should commend the OU to this Government," he said.

He added that the unexpectedly large increase had come as a particular shock to the OU against a background of professed public support for it from Government ministers.

The action of the Department of Education and Science in arbitrarily increasing fees without consultation has caused dismay, resentment and unease about future intentions," Mr Graham added.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, under secretary responsible for higher education, admitted to the House that he had been "dubious" about the OU when it opened 10 years ago.

But he added: "I have totally

changed my mind about the OU and I am not the only Conservative member to do so. It is one of the most interesting developments in our education system over the past 20 years."

Mr Boyson stressed, however, that the Government has limited resources and must order its priorities. The OU will receive a cut of £1.36m (about 2 per cent) in its budget next year, but spending this year will be £45.4m compared to £45.6m last year.

He said that the money made available this year will allow new course production towards the OU's target of about 87 full credit courses, and enable the maintenance and updating of existing courses. It will also allow an increase in the number of students from 61,000 to 67,000 next year, enabling an intake of 21,000 new students.

Anti-UGC motions fail to win support

by Ngabo Creaquer

Two motions put to Warwick University senate rejecting greater intervention by the University Grants Committee failed to attract sufficient support to be voted on.

The motions, from the faculty of social studies and from the faculty of arts, were proposed and debated but because of overwhelming opposition, no vote was taken.

The debates followed a speech made to vice-chancellors by Dr Edward Parkes, chairman of the UGC. He warned that in future there would be a greater degree of direct intervention by the UGC in the affairs of individual universities than had been either necessary or customary in the past.

The faculty of arts motion noted with concern reports that the UGC was becoming more dirigiste and urged senate to accept that universities were already subject to financial constraints laid down by the committee and planning constraints in terms of student numbers.

There had to be public accountability but this must be related to the energetic pursuit of teaching and research, which must be controlled from within the universities.

Labour pledge to implement Finniston

It is one of the great tragedies of the moment that the Government has failed to properly implement the Finniston report to halt the long-term decline of British manufacturing industry.

Mr John Silkin, Labour MP for Doncaster, said that the House of Commons last week should be implemented.

Speaking in a debate on engineering industry, Mr Silkin said that the Government had failed to implement the Finniston report, which called for major changes in the way the engineering profession should be implemented.

"I was about to comment on the Government's half-baked approach but in fact it is not baked at all. Their substitute scheme does not have the slightest possibility of having any effect on the future of British engineering," he said.

Mr Silkin pledged that the Labour Government would implement the recommendations of the Finniston report, which called for a statutory engineering authority to control the profession. "We regard them as vital," he said.

Mr Silkin was backed by Mr Joan Lester, the Labour MP for Eton and Slough, who accused Sir Joseph of ignoring the main features of the Finniston report. "One would have imagined that the Finniston report had never been written and its recommendations never made," she said.

Mr Lester said she was struck by the way the Finniston report had highlighted the different attitudes of management in many other countries. "The report states that the manager who has been trained in industry, who has an acquaintance with and a knowledge of what is managing and who is identified with the enterprise and the end product of his firm, makes a much better manager."

The Liberal MP for Truro, Mr David Penhaligon, said it was tragic that engineering did not appeal to the nation's best brains. When he visited local schools, he often said sixth-formers if they intended to enter engineering or industry, "I regard myself as lucky if one hand is raised. Very often not one young person wants to go into productive industry and make something. That is a fundamental long-term tragedy for a nation that relies on engineering."

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Student organizations were urged to provide free classes in self-defence and to continue campaign against films and other entertainment.

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Project tells of its work

The Teacher Education Project, which researches more effective ways of training and developing courses, has produced a booklet summarizing its activities over the past four years.

The project, directed by Professor Ted Wragg and Dr Clive Sutton and based at Nottingham, Leicester and Exeter Universities, will close in March 1981, when its Government funding ends.

It was set up in 1976 initially to undertake research and development into the redesign of Postgraduate Certificate in Education courses, and then extended its work to in-service training.

It has published a large number of articles, carried out research on issues including problems of slow learners, bright pupils, teaching skills and roles.

Correspondence should be sent to the project coordinator, Dr Trevor Kerry, School of Education, Nottingham University, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

Loughborough library opens

A £3m library will be officially opened today at Loughborough University. The Pilkington Library will house 350,000 books and 4,500 journals and will provide offices, teaching rooms, study and common rooms for staff and students on the three floors.

The fourth floor will house the university's new department of library and information studies, including a printing library and computer room. There will be close links between the departments, which teaches young librarians and information scientists, and the library.

NUS conference at Margate. Peter David and John O'Leary report

Students are to take legal action against universities and colleges which refuse to step up protection for women on their campuses in the wake of attacks which include the murders by the Yorkshire Ripper.

The National Union of Students' conference at Margate agreed to present authorities with a list of demands which include the showing of the working day where no support is available from lectures during after dark.

But the conference rejected a motion, sponsored by more than 100 colleges, which would have given the union's support to women carrying weapons for self-defence.

Now NUS is to launch a vigorous campaign on women's safety, beginning with a national demonstration in term in either Leeds or Bradford. The two cities were the scenes of the Ripper's last two murders, when the victims were both students.

Many local unions have already raised the question of improving safety on campuses but some have been told that budget cuts make this demands impossible to meet.

Among the proposals agreed at the conference are the clearance of areas of heavily foliated areas, the improvement of lighting, provision of emergency telephones and alarms, and increased bussing on and off campuses. There was also a call for women students to be issued with free portable alarm horns.

Police in South Yorkshire have issued students with a leaflet entitled *Street Safety at Night*, which includes a list of everyday articles which can be used as defensive weapons. It advises women to carry a comb, ballpoint pen or perfume sprays for the purpose.

A second emergency motion expressed concern about attacks on students by members of the British Movement, an avowedly Nazi organization. It was said that attacks had taken place at Essex University and Paddington, London, and that students were now afraid to use public transport in the capital.

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Funds change condemned

The new method of funding student unions directly through the budgets of their colleges was roundly condemned by the conference as a challenge to their rights and a threat to their independent existence.

A motion proposed by the executive and overwhelmingly supported called for new methods to be devised for funding student unions, which would be without adequate consultation. The new method would mean unions competing with academics for funds, and were "a one-sided recipe for conflict between university and college campuses."

Calling for a one year delay in the implementation of the new system, the NUS said that it was essential to the Department of Education to have a national and national guidelines.

An amendment from the extreme left describing the union's tactics of negotiation as a recipe for defeat was defeated. It called for an external constraint on student union activities and called for direct control for a national fees strike protest at new levels of fees for press students were rejected in favour of a renewed campaign involving days of action and lobbying.

Mr Julie Richards, of Brighton, said that delegates that fees had been successful at local level and would not endanger the lives of overseas students if they supported the union's call to take strong action this year, as might be no overseas students attend.

Delegates agreed to hold a conference to relatives of those on the Conservative Students, told fear delegates that member colleges were beginning to support policies that supported Mrs Thatcher.

"You have to realize that your ground is slipping away from under you," he said. The Conservative motion was put to a vote by extreme left groups: were defeated in favour of

ment which is thought to provide encouragement for rape.

Speakers in the Margate debate emphasized that concern was not confined to areas associated with the Ripper's attacks. A Leeds delegate said: "The sick individual who murders women in the North is just one example of the sick society which does not regard 51 per cent of its members."

There was considerable dissatisfaction with the aid and advice given by the police—in particular, the warning to women not to go out alone after dark. Ms Mary Watkins, of Birkbeck College, London, said that evening lectures made this impossible and would not ensure safety in any case.

"Elizabeth I had the right idea about this," she said. "When there was violence she told men to stay off the streets, not women."

The call for a woman to be allowed to defend herself "by whatever means she deems necessary" was defeated after claims that the carrying of weapons would be a violation of the law.

Ms Nicky Edwards, of Newcastle University, said: "NUS has never supported people in breaking the law. In any case, carrying a weapon does not make it any less likely that you will be attacked."

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Leader warns on violence

Two members of the NUS executive had received death threats because of the union's refusal to take sides in Northern Ireland, Mr David Aaronovitch, the NUS president, revealed in his opening address to the conference.

He told delegates that NUS members studying in Ulster had been helped to overcome the enormous difficulty of studying in a climate of violence. But the NUS would not be able to help if it decided that violence was an outrage if perpetrated by one side, and a "political act" when the other side used it.

In a wider attack on violence, Mr Aaronovitch warned that students would not be immune from the forces of violence and fragmentation in society. Students appeared to be regarded as legitimate targets for attack by fascist movements like the British Movement. And campuses had become targets for sexual attacks on women.

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Depth of militant feminism.

A firm grip on left-wing militancy

The winds were so strong in Margate last weekend that taxi-drivers needed to keep a firm grip on their car doors to prevent them being blown off and dumped on the sands. For the NUS, returning forlornly to the south coast after being priced out of Blackpool's Winter Gardens, it was an appropriately sombre setting.

David Aaronovitch, the union's 26-year-old communist president, also had to keep a firm grip on his members to stop them being carried away by a gust of left-wing militancy and dumped in the political wilderness. This would have happened if some delegates had succeeded in persuading the million-strong NUS to align itself with the Republican hunger strikers and the Provisional IRA.

Both sides played fairly rough. Aaronovitch squeezed in a sneaky first shot by using his opening speech to condemn political violence from both left and right. He also revealed that two members of the NUS executive had received death threats from Irish extremists.

But the other side also won its small tactical victories. One was the success of a motion put up by the extreme left wing permitting the conference to raise funds for the hunger strikers. After an emotional address by Mrs Margaret Nugent, mother of a prisoner in Armagh gaol, delegates contributed nearly £175.

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Conservative ranks split in loans versus grants row

A major split in the ranks of the Federation of Conservative Students came to the surface when Tory delegates voted overwhelmingly to defy official policy in favour of student loans.

There were calls for the resignation of Mr Peter Young, FCS chairman, at a late-night meeting which rejected the national committee's pre-loans policy by a ratio of almost 10 to 1. Mr Young later claimed that representatives of other political groupings "had swollen the numbers."

At a press conference the following morning the two Conservative members of the NUS executive, Mr Chris Bones and Mr Mark Wooding, accused their national committee of acting unbecomingly in adopting the policy without reference to the federation's annual conference and in contravention of its previous stance.

Support for loans had damaged the credibility of FCS among students. They said and was endangering the foothold Conservatives had gained within NUS. As a result, three of the federation's regions had published a poster disassociating themselves from the policy and restating the case for grants.

Mr Young was reversing the trend of recent years of adopting a pragmatic approach to student issues and relegating the importance of ideology, Mr Bones said. There were fears that he would do still more damage by resurrecting the discredited notion of voluntary membership of student unions and try, despite commitments to the contrary, to persuade Tory-influenced unions to leave NUS.

The FCS statement in support of loans was agreed at a meeting of the national committee in October because of new interest in the subject arising from the DES feasibility study. Although previous policy had been anti-loans, it had lapsed and, in the absence of debate on the issue at recent FCS conferences, the committee was entitled to start afresh.

Although a large majority of the Tory delegates to the conference were opposed to the policy, this was to be expected since only the left of FCS participated in NUS affairs, he said. He believed there would be a different result when the subject was debated at a full conference of the federation.

Mr Young denied that he was restarting a campaign for voluntary union membership and said that advice to unions in financial difficulties to consider disaffiliation from NUS was intended to force the national union into more moderate policies.

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Grant claim linked to inflation

There was a narrow majority at the conference for acceptance of the executive's proposed grants claim of a 21 per cent increase to allow for inflation over three years.

In their annual grants memorandum, the executive had argued that the Government had ordered an increase at below the level of inflation for the past two years and should now restore the 1978 value. This would mean a claim for £2,050 for undergraduates in London and £1,740 elsewhere.

But it encountered opposition from both ends of the political spectrum. Conservative students wanted the annual increase kept to single figures, while the larger for left groups argued for the grant to be restored to its 1962 value, which was said to be £2,500 for undergraduates.

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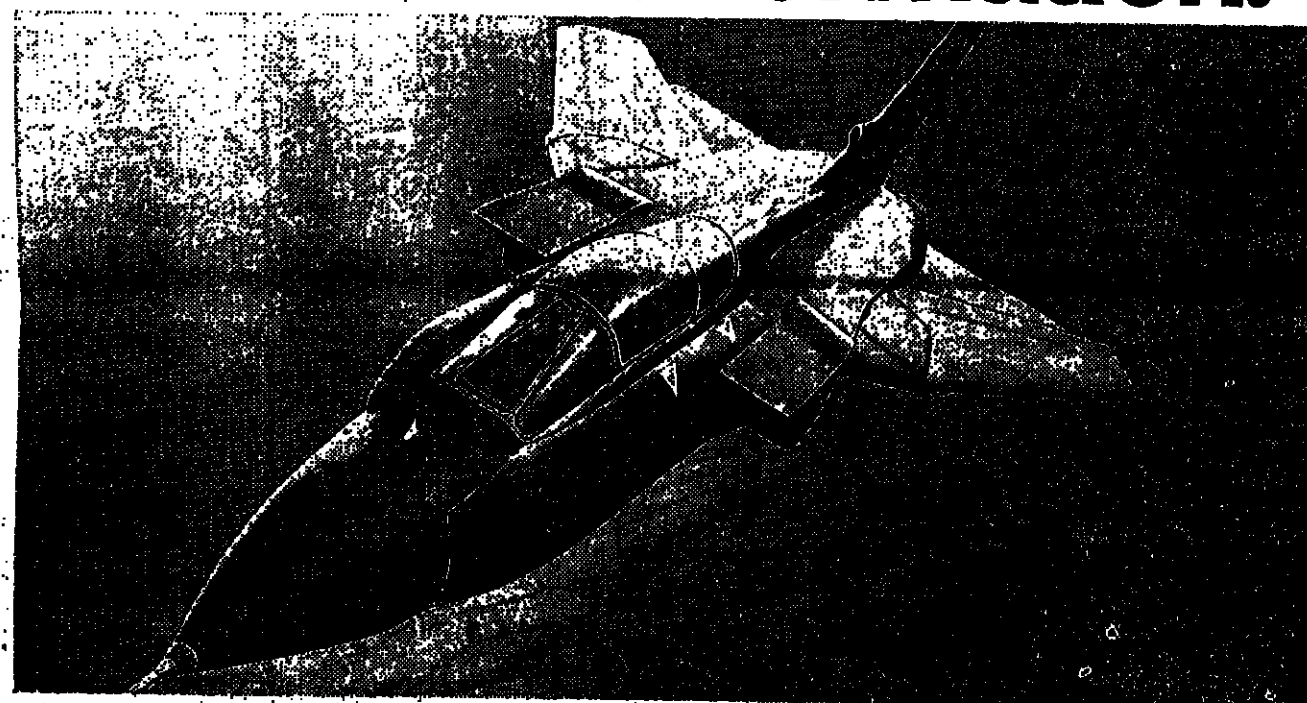
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Price predicts a decade of crisis

Higher education faces a crisis lasting the entire decade because of the need to contract the system, Mr Christopher Price, MP, chairman of the Select Committee on Education, told a one-day conference in London.

For this reason he had favoured the approach of "gentle modesty" adopted in the committee's report on the funding and organization of higher education, rather than the more radical proposals he might have supported in other circumstances.

He told the conference on the report: "We were in no doubt that each year of this decade is going

to be a real crisis year because nobody knows how to contract. We have had 20 years' experience of expansion but no one in the western world knows about contraction."

"The fact that we did not use very much tougher language about the prospects for the next few years does not mean that we were not aware that there are going to be appalling problems."

In reaching relatively moderate conclusions the committee had taken into account political reality both in Parliament and within higher education. The likelihood of acceptance was one of the main criteria by which members had judged proposals.

The recommendation that the Government should set up a Committee for Colleges and Polytechnics illustrated this, since the committee had stopped short of proposing a funding body on the lines advocated in the Oakes Report. Mr Price accepted the criticism that the new group would be different from the University Grants Committee and might find itself in a co-operation difficult initially for that reason. However, he believed that the CCP would acquire de facto power as financial stringency increased.

He agreed the UGC and the different kinds of bodies will find it difficult to have an equal partnership, he said. "But if we are moving into a decade when quite horrible decisions will have to be made, then a really powerful Government appointed CCP will be on all fours with the CCP."

US professor warns against sloganizing

There was no real threat to academic freedom in Britain and academics should be wary about using it as a slogan to resist necessary changes, Dr Robert Berdahl, professor of higher education at the University of Maryland, told the conference.

He said it was important not to confuse academic freedom—the right to pursue truth and knowledge—with procedural interventions in university autonomy. The procedural controls governments liked to apply were merely irritants, and the erosion of institutional autonomy was inevitable as the higher education system became bigger and more complex.

Financial austerity and demographic decline were bound to increase pressures to make higher education more accountable, Dr Berdahl said. All the portents were that business as usual in higher education could not continue.

Academic staff would have to play a crucial part in making changes possible. "It is putting your heads in the sand to pretend that difficult and painful decisions do not have to be made."

Dr Berdahl said, it may be that universities would be unable to adapt by themselves. The fact had been squeezed out of the universities and it would no longer be right to make across-the-board cuts.

But experience in the United States had shown that at a certain point, if introducing change was to persuade the academic community that it was necessary, he said. In Britain this would be more difficult because the DES had never engaged the academic community.

Planning should not be done by a few central bureaucrats deciding out decisions to the public for good or bad. The ongoing organs of public policy debate, just do not seem to exist here.

'The worst possible funding system'

Ministers could not have produced a worse funding system for higher education if they had tried, Lord Robbins told the conference. Prestigious institutions were facing acute financial embarrassment as a result of successive Government policies.

"I do not myself think that the problem need have been the important and dangerous subject that it has become," he said. "As things have turned out, the Department of Education and Science has made the worst of a difficult job."

The binary system had turned out to be a disaster, leaving the public sector institutions without even the protection of a buffer like the UGC between them and the local authorities and the DES. He welcomed the proposal for a Committee for Colleges and Polytechnics but warned that its powers would have to be very carefully worked out.

Lord Robbins complimented the committee on a "thought provoking and entirely admirable report", although he felt that the inquiry should have been widened to include the content of higher education at institutional level.

His own report, in 1963, had been based on the question of student loans because the committee was divided. He now believed that the two most crushing objections to loans, the load on lowly paid graduates and the difficulty of collection, could be overcome by linking repayment to income tax.

The university system, with its emphasis on early specialisation, again came in for harsh criticism from Lord Robbins. It was designed to produce dons and was not the most suitable system overall.

Such early specialisation, starting from the stage of secondary school, existed anywhere else in the civilised world and did not exist in his



Lord Robbins: hard words for the DES

youth. Then there had been no stigma attached to general degrees and the system was better attuned to the needs of society.

V-c's plea for working class students

New initiatives in higher education should concentrate on attracting more students from working-class homes and more women, Mr Jack Butterworth, vice-chancellor of Warwick University, said.

The expansion of the system had been extremely successful on the whole, but had failed to tap the "pool of ability" in the poorer sections of the community referred to in the Robbins Report. Slow moves in this direction had now been reversed and Disraeli's concept of two nations remained valid.

Women represented another reserve of untapped ability and universities would also have to become increasingly involved in continuing education. However, for them to do so, the University Grants Committee would have to change its formulae for the allocation of resources.

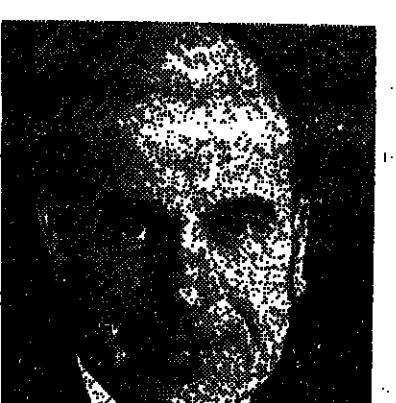
"We do not need directions or bureaucratic instructions to tell us," Mr Butterworth said. "What we need is a formula for our financing freeing us to get on with the job."

Funding difficulties were also restricting the universities in the field of research, he said. Basic conditions for researchers are inadequate compared to those in some European countries or the United States and it was to be hoped that the report of the Morrison Committee would restore the efficiency of the dual funding system.

Mr Butterworth welcomed the approach of the Select Committee, considering higher education as a whole. But he decried the recommendation that institutions should produce regular statements defining their role on the grounds that this would limit flexibility.

He also raised doubts about the establishment of a joint secretariat for the proposed Committee for Colleges and Polytechnics and the UGC. A national body was needed for the public sector, he said, but a single central secretariat might lead to over-centralised planning.

Dr George Brosan, director of the North East London Polytechnic, also favoured new planning machinery,



Jack Butterworth: "untapped pool"

which should be set up urgently before more institutions closed. There was too much over capacity in higher education, he said, and some good institutions would be down with the bad if there was no direction.

Withering attack on 'immoral' closure policies

The relative merits of local initiative as against central planning was one of the main issues raised during a panel session of the conference.

Dr George Tolley, principal of Stafford Polytechnic, said it was the duty of individual institutions to ensure that they were part of a responsible system, and not of other ways.

Both the University Grants Committee and the local authorities had done well for their institutions during expansion. Now that contraction was coming, we should look at what happens within institutions and how to change them, rather than concentrating on the system.

Mr Hugh Harding, former DES under-secretary, said a weakness of the select committee's report was its implication that the choice of student choice to determine the shape of the system, hard decisions could be avoided.

The proposed CCP did not have strong enough terms of reference. It would have to devise a system and operate it "sometimes fairly ruthlessly".

Mr Geoffrey Caston, secretary general of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said one of the main issues in higher education was that our binary

system invited people to "put up or shut up" in order to shoot at the other lot.

However, those sitting in common rooms at Oxford or Cambridge were making the same remarks about Stirling and Essex universities, for example, as others made about the polytechnics.

Mr John Barnett, the research and information officer of the college principals' group, the Standing Conference, was especially critical of the notion of allowing colleges to close gradually through withering on the vine. It was immoral to single out institutions for closure but then to pretend that they were being given an equal chance of survival simply because no new national policy on closures was being pronounced.

Those which were being allowed to wither on the vine were being inadequately funded, and were what he called "the canyons of their salvation". It would be more responsible for the Government to publish another list of closures.

Three members of the panel supported the proposed establishment of a Committee for Colleges and Polytechnics, although all had doubts about its effectiveness as a

non-funding body. Mr Caston said that it was the allocation of funds which gave the University Grants Committee its teeth and it was hard to see how a committee for the public sector could work properly without similar powers.

Mr Eric Robinson, principal of Bradford College, said the more he heard in favour of the select committee's report, the more he was convinced that the select committee was right. The select committee was concentrating on unifying higher education and neglected schools, adults and continuing education. The "binary debate" was all about the nature of separating higher education from the rest of the education system.

Mr Price accepted the criticism and said the danger was that the select committee would freeze it as a separate entity would freeze it in its present position. He hoped it would be possible in the future to merge higher education with work being done on further education by other select committees.

Professor Naomi McIntosh, of the Open University, said that although more women were entering higher education, it would be necessary in the next 10 years to

ensure that they go through further training and promotion.

Dr Price was becoming a little tedious, listening to all these apologies yet knowing that all of you are the gatekeepers of the present system," she said.

Now could she agree with Mr Butterworth that "all universities agreed on the importance of continuing education. Conventional universities were failing to make the opportunities available for mature students, and that was not just because of financial difficulties but also because of attitudes."

George Brosan said that polytechnics tried to do the best they could for mature students, but the disciplines were absolutely tremendous.

Mr Stephen Bragg, vice-chancellor of Brunel University, said the problem for the universities was how to combine stability with flexibility. He said, "The answer could be to have a single national body dealing with regional degrees, and separate regional organisations providing grants for local colleges."

Fifth Festival Hall Conference on Higher Education 1980

THE FUNDING AND ORGANISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

The Select Committee Recommendations and Future Policy

Management of decline as a growth industry

by Peter Scott

A one-day conference on London South Bank was hardly likely to come to grips with the complex of the Select Committee's report on the funding and organisation of higher education with its 48 recommendations from the age participation and fees for Greek students.

But the conference, which was organized jointly by the North East London Polytechnic and Warwick University in association with the DES, was enough to expose the important features of policy legislation at the beginning of the 80s.

First was the abiding interest in higher education policy, even though these days its importance are bad news and financial security rather than expansion of student numbers. The organizers had expected about 100 participants but in the end almost 250 turned up. As usual the polytechnics and colleges were much better represented than the universities, but rights were corrected to some extent by the presence of two current and two former vice-chancellors (despite the terrible weather) and by the participation of Mr Geoffrey Caston, the CVCP's general secretary.

Second was the almost exclusive concern of the future. At times the conference seemed to be concerned not so much with the details of the Select Committee report but with the larger and menacing question of how to manage contraction, or at least to cope with steady state after two decades of expansion and (comparative) plenty.

Mr Christopher Price MP, the chairman of the Select Committee, even encouraged this mood. He reflected that no one in the room had any experience in the management of decline and predicted terrible times ahead. The professional responsibilities of scholars were not to exploit their comparative autonomy but to evaluate objectively the value of their work in the theme of the address by Professor Robert Berdahl from the University of Maryland.

The third feature was more positive and in the long run more significant than this pessimistic mood. It was a simple acceptance of the fact that the Select Committee had touched the prevailing mood within higher education. Not a single person at last Friday's conference was prepared to stand up and say that the Select Committee was wrong.

It was a vindication of the report of Lord Robbins, the oldest exponent of the binary policy of higher education, the conference stated flatly that the Commission had been a disaster, and that the policy had been a disaster, and that the effect it had had on the universities was a disaster.

Contrary to the hopes of the organizers it was not a particularly lively conference. Most people seemed to listen rather than to speak in their views, perhaps in keeping with the sombre mood. But it was apparent that the main theme of the Select Committee report, the binary to pluralism, had captured the changing mood of higher education. However, the report was or perhaps could be made less week on the second stage, defining that pluralism.

Universities in patent rights fight

Universities have won their campaign to keep all patent rights for research made with federal grants.

Congress has passed legislation giving the United States' patent law, which will allow universities to keep all patent rights in research made with federal grants.

The case has a legal history that is long and tortured even by American standards. It started with a lawsuit against the draft, brought by a group of anti-war students in Philadelphia in 1971. The courts had not settled the case when the draft and then registration were dropped as the United States withdrew from Vietnam. So the suit hibernated until this year, when Congress reactivated registration—but not actual conscription—at President Carter's request.

Then the case suddenly exploded, a week before registration of 18 July, when a special Federal Court in Philadelphia struck down the programme, because it unconstitutionally excluded women. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan immediately stepped in and blocked the ruling, to give his colleagues a chance to review the issue, which they have now agreed to take.

President Carter did in fact ask Congress to include women in the reactivated programme, but it refused. If the Supreme Court agrees with the lower court that this sex discrimination is unconstitutional, Congress will have either to bring in women or see registration die, leaving the country without a valid mechanism for emergency military induction.

Political observers believe Congress would be extremely reluctant to make women enrol for possible conscription, and so would President-elect Ronald Reagan. During the election campaign Mr Reagan repeatedly stated his opposition to registration even for men, since his victory he has been more equivocal, saying he would review the programme after he assumes office next month. But he seems much less likely to continue it if he has to include women.

The whole case illustrates the extraordinary flexibility with which the courts have altered their interpretation of the often vague language of the American constitution, as social and political standards have changed.

A few years ago no one questioned the general assumption that only men were drafted, whatever the constitution may say about equal protection under the law. But during the 1970s the Supreme Court has progressively narrowed the grounds on which it will accept different treatment of men and women.

Dr Slaughter, an engineer who is the first black to hold a major engineering post in Washington, said he delayed his formal assumption of the NSF directorship because he needed to see through his administrative commitments at Washington State University, where he was academic vice-president and provost.

He talked with people in the future Reagan administration and I have no reason to believe I even need to be concerned about relationships with the incoming government," Dr Slaughter told a meeting of the Council of Science Society Presidents. President Carter persuaded him to take the job last summer, although he was reportedly reluctant to take it on.

Dr Slaughter made clear his determination to increase substantially the NSF's support for engineering and technology at the same time trying to reassure pure scientists that they would not suffer in the process. "The support of basic research remains the central mission of the foundation," he stated.

America's engineering societies have been increasingly critical of the foundation's alleged neglect of their interests. To meet some of their criticisms and head off their pressure on Congress to create an independent National Engineering Foundation, the National Science Board (the foundation's policy-making body) approved an internal working group shortly before Dr Slaughter took over, which will set up a separate engineering directorate within NSF.

The president-elect appointed a 15-member "science and technology task force" headed by industrialists, Dr Arthur D. Little, and Simon Ramo, which contains only one university faculty member, and two figures from the medical and biological fields. Its members are drawn mainly from the military aerospace,

Supreme Court to review women's draft

from Clive Cookson

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to review the most far-reaching sex discrimination case ever—the constitutionality of registering only men for the draft.

The final ruling, which is not expected before the summer, will determine the immediate future of the controversial registration programme that President Carter and Congress reinstated this year. But its most profound long-term impact is likely to be on the constitutional rights of women.

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Why Dr Slaughter waited to be first

from our North American editor

John Slaughter has been sworn in as the new administrator of the National Science Foundation, putting an end to speculation that he was having second thoughts about taking charge of the federal agency responsible for basic scientific research.

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A participant (or two) in a work experience project at Broxbourne

If the new initiative succeeds, it might by the 1990s have a training and education system envied by most European countries. Curran, most of these have, and continue to give much greater priority to this area with obvious benefits.

single stage process is certain. At recent CowiCelle lecturers have directed their fury against vice chancellors rather than Government or other officials.

So far no-one is effective that job. The AUT can be an effective pressure group when it is itself, both nationally and and the mantle is there.

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New Hall began life in a former guest house, the Hermitage (left). Now it has its own modern college buildings.

No longer are university grants only given to those who obtain a college scholarship since all home-based university students are now eligible for a mandatory grant. It has always been felt at New Hall that scholarships are more often awarded to candidates who attend

learning and research in the university. The first two objects have been achieved, the third is the continuing purpose of the college.

Dame Rosemary Murray is president of New Hall, Cambridge.

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University of Michigan. Another article by Mr Mazrui, "Africa and the Battle With Authoritarianism" was published in the THES on November 28.

هذه في الحاشية

BOOKS

Race relations on the personality level

The Psychodynamics of Race: vicious and benign spirals by Rae Sherwood
Harvester Press, £28.00
ISBN 0 85527 996 6

The Psychology of Apartheid by Peter Lambley
Secker & Warburg, £9.75
ISBN 0 436 24905 5

The psychoanalytic approach to the study of race relations, especially that stemming from Erich Fromm, the Frankfurt School, and the Authoritarian Personality Studies, once enjoyed a certain pre-eminence, but the striking thing about more recent studies, particularly in Britain, is that they have moved towards a more political and sociological approach. The meaning of racism tends now to be understood more in terms of its function as ideology supporting class and other group interests. Too often however this approach has employed pseudo-scientific methods with a view to discovering causal relations and correlations, and the actors' subjective understanding has been lost.

In these circumstances Rae Sherwood's lengthy, detailed analysis of the case histories of three families, one Barbadian, one English working-class and one Sikh, is very welcome. True one may ask whether these families, chosen on the recommendation of GPs in a district of London, are in any way representative, but at least we have here the disclosure of life histories which tell us more about relations between one action and another than we could hope to learn from the most representative statistical sample.

Mr James, the Barbadian, emerges as a decent sensible sort of man who grew up in Barbados in a black family of slightly above average income and who accepted as inevitable a world of white cultural and racial supremacy. He comes to England as a great personal cost, leaving his wife and children in the care of his mother, and over a period of about ten years reunites at least part of his family. By and large his new life works. He doesn't make too much fuss about racism, at least until the Powell speech, and succeeds in living as a privatized man with his family. If racial problems worry him at all, they do so in terms of a certain caution about, if not fear of, his Indian neighbours. His wife and children fit into this framework and, though more exposed to the threats and dangers of their situation and therefore inclined to occasional emotional outbursts by and large they manage to fence their world around.

Mr Chattaway is altogether more disturbed. He and his wife both come from broken homes and his world is a violent one in which apparently accidental events lead to people being literally crippled. He confesses to unpublished crimes (rape as a young man) and accepts fighting and violence as part of everyday life. He reads *Combat*, approves of the National Front, and takes some delight in driving his car at 100 mph. He finds them crossing against the lights. His young adult son is a phlegm who nor-

mally fights greasers and rockers, but on occasion enjoys an alliance with them in battles against the "Pakis". Mrs Chattaway is more balanced than her husband and children but the anxieties they induce in her are projected on to Indian youths whom she finds "mean" and whom she thinks "curry knives". There is also (rather inadequate) daughter whose late puberty is a source of worry to the family.

Baldev Singh is something of a comic opera figure, a middle-class Sikh who really loved the British Raj. He served as a clerk to officers whom he considered men of "good breeding", "good blood" and of decent educational standards. He went into the film business, had an arranged marriage and employed servants. When his business failed, he left behind his newly pregnant wife, and set out to find his fortune in London. There he led a jolly life until his money ran out and he found himself in danger of being confused with the dirty uneducated peasants who started to flood in from India. Fortunately he had some excellent wifely advice, and made him more responsible, even to the extent of taking a job in a steel works. He is now in a clerical job at Heathrow Airport, and his wife manages things behind the scenes. Though his young son's education has been hampered by the need to go back to India for long visits because of his asthma, both the boy and his elder sister are doing well. Because Baldev allows her some freedom in the area of marriage plans, the daughter is not seriously in conflict with her parents, and, after a dismal and unsuccessful time on the labour market, now works with white girls in the bank and toys with the idea of even greater westernization and freedom in Canada.

A political analysis is excluded from Rae Sherwood's book. Her concern is with how these 16 people handle their conflicts on the personality level. In these terms, of course, James has done well. He is letting his unresolved conflicts drive his life. His wife and children too contain their conflicts most of the time, and when they do show anxiety and tension, express it quite harmlessly about groups without necessarily racial overtones. Mr Chattaway is more of a case. His conflicts have become politically dangerous, but there are signs that Mr Chattaway is now giving him a precarious base for a more sensible if ambitious life. The problems really lie with his steinhead son and his inadequate daughter who might in their different ways direct their anxiety into racism. And the Singhs, finally, have problems which arise from Baldev's frustrated dream.

It must be said that Dr Sherwood's book is not a masterpiece. There are some serious doubts whether there is much to be gained from explaining Mr James's desire to behave well and not have wild parties as an anal fear of undignified and excessive desires, or John Chattaway's Paki-baiting expeditions as being expressive of castration fears. But

there is relatively little of this. The main themes relate to the more likely psychological causes such as the disturbance of racial securities through the loss of loved ones. Moreover the last chapter, about how vicious racial spirals may be made benign through close attention not merely to the origins of conflicts but to the circumstances which lead to their resolution through the abuse of racial groups makes very good sense. This is an eminently sensible book which shows the possible contribution of the psychological approach to the study of race relations.

Dr Lambley's book *The Psychology of Apartheid* also claims to be applying psychological and psychoanalytic methods to the study of race, this time in a situation where race relations problems are not simply the product of personal encounters but of a political system based upon racial segregation. He is a young Englishman educated in the Copper Belt and in the University of Capetown, who started out as a sociologist, then became a clinical psychologist working in a series of hospitals and finally operated a private practice as a psychotherapist. The substance of his book relates to what he found out about the working of the system, on the one hand through orthodox psychological testing of a number of racial and ethnic groups, and on the other through what people from all groups said to him in his clinic.

His thesis is that the Afrikaners who govern South Africa are misunderstood if they are judged in terms of western institutions, or, for that matter, in terms of any rational patterns of action at all. According to Lambley Afrikaner institutions and the Afrikaner mentality were established as a culture pattern among the Trekkers and are part of the South African state today. Afrikaners have always believed in a simple patriarchal order of society in which there is an infantile submission to leadership and an approach to problem-solving based upon seeking to win favours from father figures. Within such a system the children as well as the fathers naturally assume that there are also men destined to be servants.

Lambley's historical researches, so he claims, led him to the view that all previous analyses, including both liberal and Marxist, had misinterpreted the Afrikaner and the South African state by assuming that the South Africans could be understood simply as pursuing rational interests. For him what one has is a system governed by a culture pattern which is an archaic survival from Trekker days. Unfortunately this is not a very useful treatment for Coloureds (Lambley has less experience of the treatment of Afrikaners in hospitals is disgraceful, this does not stop the police from using quite sophisticated psychological methods for not simply tyrants terrifying them into submission).

This notion of the psychological manipulation of a multi-racial population by a government which is infantile is still cunningly becomes the main theme of Lambley's book. What one has here is a very useful treatment for Coloureds (Lambley has less experience of the treatment of Afrikaners in hospitals is disgraceful, this does not stop the police from using quite sophisticated psychological methods for not simply tyrants terrifying them into submission).

ized and highly dogmatic statement of commitment.

What follows is an attempt to show through the use of a whole series of psychological tests that the ethnic mentalities assumed in Lambley's psychohistory are actually present in samples drawn from the different populations. Since the record of these researches is introduced anecdotally rather than systematically as it would be in an academic study, it is difficult to judge their validity. One can only record in broad terms what is actually claimed.

The claim is not that the Afrikaners are in fact mentally disturbed or psychotic. In fact they emerge from the analysis as a contented and untroubled people, in this respect actually comparable favourably with the English and the Coloureds. Their problem is actually the opposite. They are essentially children and, having created an institutional order which enables them to continue functioning as children, they really have every reason for contentment.

Surprisingly, it is the English who show up as disturbed. The Cape town students for example, while they support the Progressive Party (the most in inverse proportion to its political importance and have the same attitudes which Lambley believes normal non-South African people are likely to have on race questions, show startlingly high levels of anxiety when it comes to putting their principles into practice. They may solve their problems externally by acquiescence, by permitted ineffective political action or by emigration, but above all they are deeply afraid. Were it not for the protection of their institutions moreover that fear would be reciprocated by the Afrikaners for whom these English, rather than the Afrikaners, represents the biggest threat.

The crude classification of subjects into English and Afrikaners is modified only in one or two of the tests when, for instance, English of differing political persuasions are compared. What it can hardly explain, however, is the growing support for the Nationalists among the English-speaking population. Recent political trends hardly suggest that these people are motivated only by fear. They have interests in the system which are now openly threatened by guerrillas on the borders; the Afrikaners are allies in defending these interests, not simply tyrants terrifying them into submission.

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Since much of the evidence of English and Coloured behaviour is drawn from his own clinical consultations, one might object that the picture given here is drawn from a narrowly selected sample of the psychologically disturbed. It is hard to tell. Evidence is presented directly from case notes and much of what the patients have to say appears to take the form of political gossip. The interest of the book may perhaps lie in this gossip. Having found his research plans blocked in the universities, Lambley had quite a liberally decided to do clandestine research. The claim is that in the protected setting of the clinic, he was getting a true and chilling picture of political reality which would never be publicly expressed. The book ends with this kind of gossip, in a society managed and controlled directly by the secret Broederbond there is still ordinary political corruption. Getting influence in and using the Broederbond becomes a major preoccupation of politicians. The chances of the Nationalist Party leadership have to do with this. Eventually the Broederbond found that it had fostered a fanatic in Verwoerd who actually believed in the ideology which they needed to cover up their domination. Verwoerd was able to implement the Bond and, in the process, he brought in the ex-Nazi Vorster and his henchman van der Berg. When Verwoerd fell to an allegedly mad Greek assassin, the gossip of the clinic and the evidence that the killing might have been made possible if not actually arranged by Vorster's men. Then finally, Vorster brought in both Mulder and Botha and his regime survived until the efflorescence of corruption rendered over by Mulder enabled Botha to take control.

We are, of course, a long way here from a simple psychology of apartheid. But, if what we are looking for is political analysis, this account of the goings on in the Broederbond and the Nationalist Party leaves a lot of questions unanswered. It is after all, a modern capitalist economy which Botha governs. If there are constraints arising from the mentality of party members, from the system of corruption which has been built up, or from the economic situation, there are also others which arise from the economy, and the English-speakers as well as the Broederbond within that economy must surely be successful in pressing on the goings on in the Broederbond and the Nationalist Party. Of these matters, unfortunately, Lambley remains naively ignorant.

As Rae Sherwood has shown, psychology and psychoanalysis do have their uses in the analysis of racial relations problems. It must be hoped that there will be those in South Africa among the academics (Incidentally these are far more courageous than Lambly allow) who might apply themselves to developing a more sophisticated analysis.

John Rex

John Rex is director of the SERC Research Unit in Ethnic Relations at the University of Aston in Birmingham.

BOOKS

Agricultural policy in the US

Farm and Food Policy: Issues of the 1980s
by Don Paarlberg
University of Nebraska Press, £9.90
ISBN 0 8032 3656 5

Don Paarlberg, now an emeritus professor at Purdue University, has had a long and influential career in American agricultural economics. His experience spans teaching and government, and has included spells as special assistant to President Eisenhower, coordinator of Food for Peace, and later an apparently unimpeachable assistant secretary of agriculture from 1972 to 1974. His aim in his most recent book is to describe the development of American agriculture, assess its current state and identify those issues of public policy which are likely to be most in evidence during the decade of the 1980s.

Active United States farm and food policy, according to Professor Paarlberg, has fallen into three historical phases. The first, extending from the decade of the Civil War to the years up to 1933, was concerned with the initial settlement of new areas as determined by the provisions of the Homestead Act, and with the establishment of an educational, research and extension system, largely through the work of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which would favour economic improvement.

A second phase was then provoked by the inter-war depression and the acute agricultural distress which it caused. The main planks of policy were price support and commodity programmes associated with the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933. Many remnants of this phase still persist, although since the 1960s it has gradually merged into a third era in which government action relevant to agricultural policy has increasingly been promoted by non-farm interest groups rather than by the established farm lobby. Examples are concern for poverty, which has promoted food programmes motivated by nutritional need rather than being designed to support farm income, and concern for food safety, concern about apparent exploitation of some groups of poorer farm workers, environmental pressures, energy

problems, and the role of the United States in international affairs. The first two phases can be understood by making basic agricultural economics with a little macro-economic theory. The third phase, in which agriculture has lost its uniqueness, is much more difficult and in many ways much messier.

The identification of historical phases is very helpful and some of the early analysis in the book is excellent. This is particularly true of the long treatment of the commodity programmes in which the author questions, with devastating effect, the logic underlying large scale farm support. He can see some virtue in intervention using some price supports and carry-over stocks designed to reduce the inevitable uncertainties of agricultural production and trade, and also protect the consumer. However, he notes that commodity programmes, in practice, tend to boost price supports and output targets "above a moderate and benign level" towards sheer protectionism.

The story is a familiar one which can be translated, with only a few amendments to cover technical differences in operation, to the current European scene. The surprising feature is that protectionism has persisted for so long in a country where natural attributes and the basic farm structure inherited from the early development phase are at their most favourable. In effect Professor Paarlberg is convinced that inward looking policy resulted in the loss of potential overseas markets for farm products and, on the other side, unjustified intervention in imports of sugar, dairy products and some meats.

In view of his pedigree, it is not surprising that the undertones in the discussion of commodity policy obviously stem from free market economics and the principles of comparative advantage. However, the tone is notably moderate rather than, as might be expected, more stridently doctrinaire. A similar emphasis, then, persists through much of the remainder of the book. For example, Paarlberg is not impressed by domestic food assistance programmes, preferring the allocation of support in direct cash grants to poorer families; he is keen on market-based allocation systems for

water use in arid zones; and on the important issue of environmental protection he points out forcibly that there are substantial hidden costs of regulatory control and that the search for "less than perfect solutions" may be economically justified.

There are also interesting chapters on food aid and technical assistance in which Paarlberg sets out the issues fairly and in some detail. He makes it clear that he is opposed to Third World development on Marxist lines, but he is equally insistent in advocating help, arguing that development is a positive sum game in which there are long-term gains for recipient and donor nations.

Unfortunately, although the book is attractive in terms of clarity of insight and a philosophical stance which has sensible middle of the road appeal, it does have irritating features. In his efforts to hammer home the thesis that agriculture is increasingly subject to external pressure Paarlberg includes a number of tedious "chapters" which are little more than padding (five and a half pages on the role of the Department of Agriculture, less on occupational health) but then inexplicably given their importance, he fights shy of serious discussion of marketing and "agribusiness".

Many readers will also feel repelled by a style punctuated by a constant stream of footnotes, of tiresome imagery. To exaggerate the point, albeit marginally, a collection of phrases can be put together to give a "sentence" which tells us that the farm policy watershed determines which way the stream will flow into uncharted territory, where we will have exciting adventures stitching together the patchwork quilt and putting points on the scoreboard, and where hopefully the natives will be friendly. Serious students of agricultural affairs have much to learn from Paarlberg, though it is regrettable that such disfigurement of language has to be tolerated in what could be a stimulating book.

G. H. Peters

G. H. Peters is Director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics at the University of Oxford.

An intricate network of theory

Gauge Fields: an introduction to quantum field theory
by L. D. Faddeev and A. A. Slavnov
Nashua/Cambridge, £15.70
ISBN 0 8053 9016 2

Quantum Field Theory
by Claude Itzykson and Jean-Benoit Zuber
McGraw-Hill, £23.15
ISBN 0 07 032071 3

Quantum field theory applies quantum theory to fields (like the electric and magnetic fields) in the same sort of way that quantum mechanics applies quantum theory to particles. For example, Heisenberg's uncertainty principle limits the simultaneous measurement of magnetic and electric field strength at a point somewhere in the same way as it limits the simultaneous measurement of the position and momentum of a particle. Quantum field theory is the proper way to express the wave-particle duality of photons, and, it turns out, of other particles too. In fact, it is not much of an exaggeration to say that special relativity and quantum theory together lead inevitably to quantum field theory, and that this is the best framework known within which to study the physics of elementary particles.

Quantum field theory has proved capable of making amazingly accurate predictions about the properties and interactions of photons, electrons and positrons. For many years, people have tried to use quantum field theory to treat also the strong interactions (including the "nuclear forces") of hadrons and the weak interactions (including beta decay) involving leptons and hadrons. The difficulty has been that the forces were not known in any

detail. It was like trying to do atomic physics knowing the principles of quantum mechanics but not knowing the law of force between electric charges.

During the 1970s, many people have become convinced that we now know for the first time, the sort of field theory that nature uses. These are the so-called gauge-field theories. In quantum theory, the phase of an electrically charged field must be changed in any point of space-time, with no observable consequence. This property is called gauge-invariance. Gauge theories generalize this idea by replacing the change of phase by a more general local transformation of a more complicated field. This principle guided the construction of the Glashow-Salam-Weinberg unified theory of weak and electromagnetic processes—a theory which has thus far passed all experimental tests to which it has been put. A related theory (called, rather bewilderingly, quantum-chromodynamics) of strong interactions possesses many appealing features.

Gauge fields have been much studied during the past decade and a body of beautiful, though not yet difficult, theory has grown up. These are the first textbooks to treat these new subjects systematically. They are each written by eminent authorities, and are to be greatly welcomed.

Gauge Fields is a translation of a book published in the new material, and would be excellent taken as a sequel to one of the older texts on quantum field theory. It is mainly about the principles of gauge field theory, with only a short chapter on applications. Written

in most readable English by its French authors, it is a different story. It offers a complete coverage of the subject, and the authors' style is clear and direct. The newer material occupies less than a quarter of the book, but the older parts are treated with all the advantages and economy of powerful modern techniques. It is masterly. It will not set horridly serious students of the subject back without it. With 700 pages, it is excellent value for money.

Scattered throughout the book are suggestions for problems which able and energetic readers can attempt. A good number of sample calculations are described in detail, including, for example, the calculation of two-loop order of the vacuum polarization function in electrodynamics. About the only thing the book does not attempt is to give details of the present state of experimental verification of the gauge theories, or to describe the future prospects for the discovery of the predicted gauge particles. The authors believe, probably rightly, that such an account would quickly become out of date.

Both books are very clear, but anyone intending to read them should be aware that the subject is difficult. The student must understand an intricate network of theory before he or she is in a position to calculate observable quantities. Perhaps this is inevitable, but it shows that the subject is not yet properly assimilated by the subject.

J. C. Taylor

J. C. Taylor is a professor in the department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics at the University of Cambridge.

Unconventional arithmetic

Ontological Economy: substitutional quantification and mathematics
by Dale Götting
Oxford University Press: Clarendon Press, 1980
ISBN 0 19 824420 7

This book contains a formal theory of arithmetic which is based on substitutional quantification, and which purports to be ontologically neutral in the sense that it does not require us to posit abstract entities as its subject matter. In this it contrasts with the conventional, axiomatic treatment of number theory—or, at least, so the author would have us believe. In fact, the theory has no advantage over the conventional one, and is decidedly inferior in point of formal simplicity. The author's belief in the superior merits of his theory stems, at least in part, from his apparent failure to understand the conventional, axiomatic approach.

When we treat arithmetic or real number theory axiomatically, we are in no way committed to the existence of "natural numbers" or "real numbers". In laying down axioms for these theories we define what it is for a structure to be a model of the axioms (using the Dedekind-Peano axioms for arithmetic) or a "complete ordered field" (using Dedekind's axioms for real number theory). Whether structures which satisfy these axioms exist is a separate question. The reason why such an axiomatic definition of a whole class of structures (simply infinite systems, complete ordered fields) can be construed as, in some sense, a "definition" of particular abstract mathematical objects (natural numbers, real numbers) is that the class defined in this way can be shown to consist of mutually isomorphic, and, therefore, mathematically indistinguishable, structures.

There is no question, however, of singling out particular structures as simply infinite systems (using the Dedekind-Peano axioms) or as complete ordered fields (using Dedekind's axioms). On the contrary, from the modern axiomatic standpoint "natural numbers" and "real numbers" are just abstractions—fictions, if you will—and the realities from which they are abstracted are the structures which satisfy the appropriate axioms. Of course, if no structures satisfy a system of axioms, then the corresponding theory collapses into triviality. In this sense, then, the conventional treatment of arithmetic does indeed carry an ontological commitment, a commitment to the existence of models of the Dedekind-Peano axioms. But it is not necessary to postulate "natural numbers" whatever they might be, since any infinite set gives rise to

infinitely many such models. The commitment, in short, is to the existence of infinite sets.

Thus the author's claim that the conventional approach to number theory commits us to "natural numbers" is false. But that approach does, undeniably, commit us to sets. Does the author's own system commit us to less? He clearly thinks so. He devotes the first five chapters of his book to developing a technical definition of the ontological commitment of a formal theory. He claims that according to this technical definition his formal theory of arithmetic is not ontologically committed to abstract entities. I do not doubt that his claim is entirely justified. But this simply proves that his definition of ontological commitment is worthless. For it is quite clear that his theory commits us to a great many, indeed, infinitely many abstract objects, namely, the sentences and terms of his formal theory. The author anticipates this objection, and tries to meet it. "Sentences will require expression types as its abstracta; these may be construed as the shapes (visual, auditory, etc.) of tokens. Thus they are properties instantiated directly by objects, only one step removed from the concrete" (p. 109).

Now, of course, it is quite true that some expression types are "only one step removed from the concrete". But if current physical theory is to be believed, we live in a finite universe, and consequently the number of tokens of any expression type must fall to be the types of actual, or even of possible, tokens. We must, it seems, posit shapes of expressions which cannot actually exist—there's real ontological economy for you. Of course, the author could avoid this difficulty if he were to take expressions to be finite sequences of primitive signs, but I suspect that he would hesitate to do so, since that would force him to recognize sets. However, sets, in any case, that sets, functions, and so on, will have to be used in order to develop the semantics, the theory required. And, of course, once you have an infinite set, you have many for the conventional Dedekind-Peano axioms.

The author urges upon us the advantages of a purely logical account of arithmetic, which he imagines his theory to be. But his free-wheeling and unlimitable use of recursive definitions makes this claim dubious.

It is conceivable that the formal theory of arithmetic presented here may be of technical interest. I cannot see, however, that it has anything to offer to the philosophy, or the foundations, of mathematics.

John Mayberry

John Mayberry is lecturer in mathematics, at the University of Bristol.

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The Third World Reassessed
by H. H. Hermans
University of California Press, £9.00
ISBN 0 520 03764 2

Despite its common usage the temptation always to put the term Third World in inverted commas is hard to resist, given its extremely vague and imprecise nature. As one states Hermans, in *The Third World Reassessed*, argues that the term "almost" defies conceptual analysis. At its best it is applied to a wide range of societies which ought to exhibit some common features but which are also widely different in many other ways. Thus it is perhaps not surprising that attempts by social scientists to provide general theories of Third World development have often foundered on the rocks of "crude over-generalization". In the early part of this book Hermans provides a most useful

discussion of the theoretical lacunae of previous attempts at establishing a paradigm for Third World development. He then identifies four broad types of approach. These he labels liberal, managerial, neo-Marxist and historicist.

The first applies to the modernization 'school' so popular in the 1960s, especially in the United States (the reason why this should be described as "liberal" is unclear). Put simply the underlying belief of this approach was that development is a linear path along which all societies travel: the Third World therefore represents a picture of what the developed world ought to look like and the developed world is a model of what the Third World will look like in the future. Having established the point of departure and the point of arrival the essence of scholarship on the Third World was to identify the reasons and mechanisms of the journey. The managerial approach shared

many of the same assumptions but placed a greater emphasis on the practicalities of management, problems-solving and policy evaluation. These approaches are based to both approaches is that they are ethnocentric, logically suspect and for much of the time downright inaccurate when laid alongside the reality of Third World experience.

The neo-Marxist approach which came to the fore in the 1970s shifted the major explanatory focus to the world system in general and international capitalism in particular. Third World development, or lack thereof, was understood, in terms of the dependence relationship existing between the capitalist centre and the periphery in the Third World. Hermans provides a sensible critique of this approach. He argues that dependency theorizing has neglected the internal dynamics of Third World societies, and in particular their political structures and

cultural traditions" and that "most dependency writings have relied on a deductive approach to the internal conditions, making them conform to what is logically expected on the basis of exogenous forces".

Hermans's intellectual sympathies clearly lie with the younger, more ethnocentric and context-sensitive. However, the problem with such an approach is that although it undoubtedly leads to a more thorough and convincing analysis of particular societies, it virtually eliminates the possibility of some mega-theory of Third World development. This dilemma is neatly illustrated by the three central chapters of the book which deal with North Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. In each case Hermans's analysis is always sophisticated and persuasive, but not conducive to wider generalization. The chapter on Algeria, for example, openly states that "to study Algeria, and especially to see it as a whole, is

a formidable task for it is a sizable country marked by profound regional, ethnic and linguistic differences". However, if one does not accept that there is a problem country presents such a problem what hope can there be for a single comprehensive mega-theory of Third World? Rather than providing a reassessment of the Third World Hermans seems to be demonstrating the impossibility of doing so. As a collection of essays on Third World topics this book has a very good deal to recommend it, but ultimately it falls to fulfil the claim made by its title. In a sense it only out and settles for lesser but more attainable goals.

John Wiseman

Dr Wiseman is lecturer in politics at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Laurie Taylor



"McCardle?"
"No, sir."
"Er, McCardell?"
"Not quite."
"Mc... Mc... McClusky?"
"Noah?"
"Warm?"
"Not very, I'm afraid."
"Er, Mc... Oh, give up. What is it?"
"McCallion."
"Ah yes. Of course, McCallion. McCallion. Well, that gets us half way. Now let's see. What exactly do you do? You're not one of our third-year students are you?"
"No."
"Postgraduate?"
"Not any longer."
"Technician?"
"No."
"Alright. Give up again. But it doesn't mean I don't know you very well. One meets so many people in this job that one's always forgetting faces: students, publishers' reps, chaps who've come to service the electric typewriters."
"I'm the Senior Research Fellow on your five-year S.S.R.C. project on Social Mobility."
"So you are. So you are. Stupid me. Appointed you myself, didn't I? Oh yes, of course. Sorry not to have been in touch in recent years, but things have rather piled up. Well, how's it all going on the project?"
"Well, you should know, sir. You've published eight papers based on the findings."
"True. But you understand how it is. I didn't have time to go into all the details. Quite frankly your work has been so damn good that I have had no hesitancy whatsoever about simply putting my name on it and sending it straight off to the journals. So, anyway, what can I do for you today?"
"I just came to say goodbye, sir."
"What's that?"
"Goodbye, sir. The project finished at the end of last week. No more papers. The other research workers thought I ought to pop in and let you know before they went to sign off."
"Very thoughtful of them. Much appreciated. Well, good luck for the future to all of you. Difficult times of course for employment, but you can always call on me for a reference. And that goes for all the others. Let them know, will you. All three... or is it four... of them."
"I'm sure they'll be grateful to you, sir. I'll leave the printers, and final report on your secretary's desk. Shall I? I think I'll find that much of it is already in publishable form."
"Excellent. You know it's at times like this that one realises how important it is for academics to be fully involved in research. Out of the ivory tower. In the field. Yes, indeed. Just wish a few of my colleagues would risk getting their hands dirty. What's wrong with some hard practical grind, I want to know. Some proper work. Academics have got a responsibility to the community. Must be prepared to get out and face the heat and bustle of the market place. Oh yes. Well, McCardle. Jolly good luck. And I'll certainly bear your name in mind if I decide to commit myself to any more research in the near future."
"Thank you sir. Shall I close the door?"
"Yes please. As quietly as possible."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UGC control and the universities
Sir.—There are a number of major points of principle involved in the proposed extension of UGC control over individual universities, which were made abundantly clear by Dr Parkes in his speech by you in your editorial comment in support of Dr Parkes and more intervention. (THES, November 21).
The first is the question of entry into higher education. Britain's tertiary sector is neither particularly large, nor particularly easy to get into. But it was expanded in the 1960s on the basis of the principle that places should be available for qualified school-leavers wanting to take them up. Does the UGC stand by this principle or not? Dr Parkes talks about contraction and the fixing of targets for student numbers. He does not say whether this will or will not involve the denial of places to qualified school-leavers. This is a disgraceful omission.
Secondly, there is the principle, still broadly operative, that students study the subjects of their own choice. This, too, goes unmentioned in both the speech and your editorial. The indications are that the "rationalisation" being demanded by the UGC means the re-shaping of universities to fit in more neatly with what are supposed to be the needs of the "economy". The subjects that will suffer will be those that have no obvious economic utility.
Students, however, have a tiresome habit of wanting to study subjects which they find interesting rather than those which governments and industrialists think to be useful. Earlier attempts to steer students towards the "useful" have not been conspicuously successful. Again Dr Parkes gives no indication of whether he considers student demand to be relevant to the enforced closures of departments he is now talking about.
Thirdly, there is the question of the nature of the UGC itself. Your editorial accepts the UGC's image of itself as a body representing the universities. To be sure, it is composed of academics—but not of academics chosen by the universities themselves. What is more its staff is composed of civil servants from the Department of Education and high level members of the DES. I believe, at its every meeting, it looks increasingly like a branch of the DES and acts increasingly as the executor of government policy towards the universities.
For all these reasons, I think Dr Parkes' claim that the UGC is a staunch defender of university autonomy cannot possibly be accepted. His committee ought to be defending the principles of entry and student choice outlined above. Why is it not doing so?
Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY ARBLASTER,
Department of Political Theory and Institutions, Sheffield University.

Overseas students
Sir.—Having just read your important leading article on overseas students (THES, December 5) I must draw your readers' attention to two particular points.
Firstly it was quite clear to most of those working with overseas students' admissions that the huge increase in fees imposed from October 1980, would have a drastic effect on numbers but in two years' time. This was said very firmly on many occasions but the influential speakers on this subject appear to have disregarded or disbelieved it. This hiccup in the system is obvious when one considers that a very high proportion of these overseas students (I would put the figure at 70 per cent) apply to this country after a two-year A level course. The families of such students are committed therefore to five years of study and the extra costs have been found somehow in order for that commitment to be safeguarded. Likewise the Malaysian Government gives scholarships for five years. Therefore the big drop is predicted for entrants to universities in October, 1982, and has already happened in the locally reported drops in enrolment for A level courses of between 50 and 80 per cent. The fall in overseas applicants reported by UCCA is somewhat of a surprise but one quickly sees the effect of the admissions freeze in October because of the long "tail" of relatively weak students who may have decided to try elsewhere.
Secondly in relation to your comments about government policy it is fairly widely known now that DES statisticians have for a long time, that the number of overseas entrants began to fall from October, 1978, when the undergraduate fee was only £750. One wonders why this fact has taken so long to emerge unless, as you hint, the Government does not really know what the problem is or what the solution will be. The price it is out of existence.
Yours faithfully,
B.A. COLLINGS,
4 Gable Street,
Beeston, Nottingham.

Psychology reviews
Sir.—Certain reviews (THES, November 28) demand a right of reply. Dr Spencer's review of our *Textbook of Psychology* seems to us to be particularly outrageous in the words—that we feel obliged to interrupt our task of dusting off our old lecture notes and seek the opportunity to respond to some of his criticisms and aspersions.
It is very clear in the preface the book was written primarily with GCE A level students in mind and that we hoped that first-year undergraduates would also find it useful. We deliberately chose to present a basic, literate account of modern psychology based firmly on its background. Dr Spencer clearly does not like his. He fibres at our level devotion to Babbingtons and Barlett's ideas and falling into the undergraduate trap of defining "recent" only in temporal terms. Barlett is in fact very recent in terms of impact—he was largely ignored in the past. Today, however, his "idea" of schema underpins virtually all introductory textbooks, such as "frames" and "scripts" as well as the schema notions of current (yes, we do mean current) cognitive psychologists. He complains that the ideas of Clark and Lurton get an airing at North East London Polytechnic. We cannot necessarily speak for the majority of our colleagues who had nothing to do with this textbook, but we ourselves would answer: "Yes, Dr Spencer, of course they do. Just that an airing. No bad thing with respect to a man who singularly illustrates a certain philosophical approach to scientific inquiry and thus remains an influential figure."
Spencer, in fact, seems to be unclear in his own mind whether we are merely "historically orientated" or devote of new fads. The two are not the same thing at all. He claims that only 10 per cent of the references in the book were published in the last 10 years. Throughout the text there are suggestions for further reading, which he simply has not considered. Of these, the majority were published after 1970, and of those 50 per cent are post-1975. His further unwarranted and rather offensive implication that all psychology at N.E.L.D. must be primitive does not, as we see it, square with the record of published research maintained by this department.
It is a pity that the few good points that Christopher Spencer makes are drowned by his preference for playing to the gallery rather than attending to the book he was supposed to be reviewing. This makes, of course, for good journalism but in a style which has largely disappeared from academic reviews.

Boycotting South Africa
Sir.—I have written to you before about South Africa, but feel I must write again.
Robin Smith (THES, December 5) accuses Peter Wilkins of advocating personal boycotts of South Africa. I see no indication in Peter Wilkins's letter of his doing so. The general case for isolating South Africa (based on the illegality of the apartheid regime) has long been recognized by the UN and is embodied in its mandatory arms embargo. The case for a total boycott has been put for many years by the African National Congress which is leading the liberation struggle inside and outside the country. Until its banning in 1960, the ANC had a massive following in South Africa, and it was in this period that it first called for a boycott.
Peter Wilkins said that the South African regime is on a war footing. This may seem intemperate language, but unfortunately it is an adequate description of the situation. As white males in South Africa are liable for annual military service; this applies also to foreigners who stay in the country for more than two years. The majority of young servicemen are sent to the Angolan/Namibia border, where they take to crush SWAPO, the liberation movement of a country which is under illegal South African occupation. Security forces inside South Africa are constantly on the alert against "terrorists"—i.e. the South African resistance.
I have said before that nobody should underestimate the violent efforts of South African blacks and whites who dedicate themselves to effecting a genuine transformation of the system; but as Robin Smith himself says, there is little hope of peaceful change. I certainly do not condemn the Wits academics, but I feel that the role of the academics in the Wits (THES, October 31), while they give interesting information, may encourage British academics to feel that they should visit South Africa. John Gillard (THES, December 5) of arrogance, the real arrogance may lie in thinking that by making an individual visit to South Africa as a lecturer, one can contribute to effective change. I wish all access to those at Wits who are working to bring a just and democratic South Africa should be the expressed wish of the mass of the South African people to their broader struggle for their rights.
Yours sincerely,
ANNA RIDGHALGH,
Department of French,
Southampton University.

Publishers under pressure

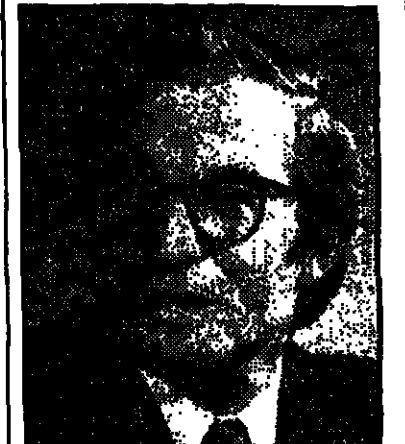
Microfiche and other forms of micro-publishing. Although a fundamental challenge, it is one that publishers could easily meet and happily thrive upon in more buoyant times.
But the danger today is that in their weakened financial state, publishers will be pushed aside by publishing concerns with more money but less sensitivity.
Those universities which still maintain university presses have a particular responsibility at present. The same austerity that is grinding down small academic publishers is simultaneously grinding down the universities. So there is a great danger that in these sad circumstances a university press may be regarded as a peripheral activity. It may find it difficult to protect itself against the cuts in research and teaching departments. The fact that the latter have tenured teachers while a press usually has only untenured employees makes it even more vulnerable.
Yet a healthy intellectual economy depends almost as much on diverse and responsible publishing outlets as it does on good teaching and research. In considering the future of their presses universities should remember this. They should also remember that it is precisely when the private sector of academic publishing is finding it most difficult to provide such outlets that they have a particularly heavy responsibility to maintain their number and quality.
An important aspect of steady-state higher education—and one that is largely unanticipated—will be the growing difficulty that academics will face in getting their work published. In the 1960s and 1970s the growth of academic publishing in America and Europe closely followed the increase in resources devoted to higher education. Now that this increase has stopped and may be replaced by an actual decline, the outlook for academic publishing is inevitably less bright.
Yet the reasonable opportunity to be published remains an important component of academic freedom, and should not be left to chance, as any rationalization of what courses should be offered to students and of what research should be undertaken requires the most careful consideration and should not be left to chance, as the inevitable rationalization of opportunities to be published should be an important item on the agenda of change. There is, of course, no easy answer, but that is no excuse for ignoring the question.

On the brink of a new anomaly
It is still too early to announce publicly the arrival of the new anomaly. The negotiating game is not over yet. It is still possible that this year's salary claim by university teachers, which had gone to the Committee A to Committee B of the form of a recommended 13 per cent increase, will not be accepted by the new 6 per cent limit. The new 6 per cent limit, which was agreed by the University Teachers' Council meeting in London, should not be allowed to degenerate into a circus of negotiation, against the Government and Science, the A.U.T.'s own leaders, or any other handy target.
On the other hand, even if university teachers are not subjected to the full rigour of the new "anomaly" policy, they are almost unlikely to receive the 13 per cent increase recommended by Committee A which would be necessary to keep them broadly in step with their colleagues in the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. In this sense a new anomaly is certain to be created. The only outstanding question is whether the final increase will be nearer 13 or 6 per cent.
The A.U.T. will argue that the universities can afford to pay more than 6 per cent whatever advice they may have received from the UGC, because their cash limit for the period up to next April allowed for a larger increase. The universities will argue that uncertainty over overseas students means that there may not be as much money to play with as the A.U.T. claims. They will also argue that the need to secure non-salary expenditure to allow for a larger salary increase could damage academic standards, and that for them to continue at a public breach of the 6 per cent limit would incur the anger of Government (and possibly a further squeeze on the university grant next year?).
In any case the argument is no longer between the universities and the A.U.T., but between both of them and the DES with the UGC on the sidelines and the Treasury as the real arbiter lurking in the background. However the fact that the universities were unhappy about the 13 per cent increase recommended by Committee A because it seemed to them too high is bound to make the task of the A.U.T. in trying to persuade the DES to accept a breach, however technical and howsoever discreet, in the new 6 per cent limit very difficult.
Rather than indulging in recrimination or argument, expressions of anger next week's council should try to devise policies to prevent a third, and a fourth, anomaly arising. This means, first, a much closer association between the bargaining arrangements for the A.U.T. and for the DES, and secondly, a common starting date on April 1, and an outright incomes policy, a more rational system for setting pay in the whole public sector. Otherwise there is nothing to prevent the next anomaly being brought by the DES with the UGC on the sidelines and the Treasury as the real arbiter lurking in the background.

Science and separatism
Within the DES. Part of the reason for this may have been its exclusion from the mainstream of the department under an isolated deputy secretary. However, the decision to integrate science policy more closely with higher and further education under a single deputy secretary has also been received with a certain ambivalence in the scientific community.
Yet Lord Todd's suggestion would also bring changes that could be far from beneficial for science. Most importantly, it would separate scientific research from its most crucial ally, higher education. In fact, both are so closely interwoven that it is hard to consider one without the other. It is vital that the young scientists of this country are educated in the work of those involved in the forefront of the search for knowledge, and higher education would be considerably impoverished without its research input just as the work of scientists would be diminished without their involvement with the flow of bright young students who attend their classes.
It therefore seems a decidedly unsatisfactory arrangement to separate science and higher education and begin to fund them separately. Without its representation through the Secretary of State for Education, science would lose a particularly important voice in the Cabinet. No high-level independent scientific adviser who merely reports to Cabinet can be considered in a way to be an adequate substitute.
It therefore seems that Lord Todd's proposals are more disruptive than helpful, although they should by no means be dismissed out of hand. They have, if nothing else, raised again the whole question of the role of science in society and how we should support it, and that is always worthy of careful consideration.

Importance of being constant

And that was another career. After some false starts in the Midlands he acquired a practice in the West of Scotland at Glasgow. When much later I found myself in Glasgow, I found myself captivated by the stories; for they were no different from his, stories of tinkers and undertakers and pubs and districts. He spent his few leisure times fishing and reading, and have since met a retired journalist and artists who used to go out with him and found it an education. He could quote easily, make up jokes in Latin or Greek, knew a lot about wild life and a great deal about biology.
That was by no means his final placement. The education of his children took him from there to Edinburgh, where he acquired a practice in the house in George Square in which Sir Walter Scott had grown up. That was where I met him and that was where he began to have a profound effect on me. He wanted—good company and conversation, access to libraries, the Dominican priory and the Catholic student union next door. Dominican friars are usually an eccentric lot and include among their numbers the most intense scholars, philosophers and scientists as well as preachers. His patients included university professors, lawyers, policemen and a bewildering number of clergy of all types and sizes. He decided that his interests and were in psychiatry, attended clinics, studied and discussed endlessly and began to do more work in that field.
But the Health Service was introduced after the war and he never agreed with it. He thought it should be voluntary, predicted what would happen (most of which has, though I must add that I profoundly disagree with him about this), found himself more or less penniless and decided at the age of 57 to start again. He sold what was left, emigrated to Canada (What a sportsman," said a friend, "a sportsman of Greek), took his medical examinations again, eventually found himself in Nova Scotia and ended up there as deputy superintendent of a mental hospital.
He retired exhausted and disabled, found his way back to Scotland and died in hospital, without a cry for help and without plan the pity which he had spent his life finding for other people. His name (to get round to it at last) was Guthrie Badenoch. He was an Aberdonian, as I've said as can be, as independent as a horse, as unwavering as a saint. And as uncomfortable.
What has brought all of this back to my mind was at the start of this column—Brown bread and compost. I knew him well because after years of pursuit and argument I married one of his daughters. Last night on the note of compost and an incident which burned itself into my mind.
One Saturday when I was alone in his house, there was a ring at the door and two men with a handcart of horse manure offered to sell it to me because the doctor had told them to. I told them to take it round to the back, gave them a florin for a drink while I checked up, and was not altogether surprised when the door bell rang again and a man asked if anyone had seen his horse or whether it had been stolen. In due course I passed as the principal witness in the Sheriff Court in what came to be known as *The Manure Case*, interrupted by bursts of coarse laughter, in which I was in danger of being convicted of an assault on a witness. The doctor thought I had acquitted myself well and assured me that I would never forget the importance of compost.
Nor shall I ever forget him. Now that experts are teaching what they laughed at him for saying 30 years ago, he must be laughing in paradise.



Patrick Nuttgens

I learned the other day something I should have known about years ago, that doctors and dentists are telling people that they should eat wholemeal bread and consume plenty of roughage. At the same time, the Roth lecturer seems to be saying (in those remarkably repetitive and sometimes depressing talks) that common sense and a concern for the healthy life might be a useful corrective to seeing the doctor as simply the technician who deals with illness. All of which takes me back to my student days and to the prophetic character whom for the moment I shall simply call the doctor.
The doctor was a little man, not much more than five feet tall, whom I first saw climbing awkwardly up the steps of his house in Edinburgh, and who seemed to have a tweed suit and leather gloves. He was emphatic that we must all eat compost: grown, stone ground, whole meal bread; and there was a loaf available which he had persuaded a baker to make which satisfied that criterion. It was good stuff. If you visited or worked for a friend of his who ran a drastically healthy guest house in the Lammermuir Hills, you could spread it with wonderful honey and eat great fruits and come back fit to do anything. He kept compost pits in the back garden, with a thermometer in each, and you might at any time be summoned out to record the temperature and admire the thing.
But if that gives the impression of a crank—and there were plenty of people who thought he was one—then I can assure you that he appeared as I came to know him. He was an expert on the importance of trace minerals in diet. He had been born in Aberdeen. His father ran a clothes shop, his mother had been previously married to a man who died in Africa who had died and left it to her to carry his body a few hundred miles back to the coast. He had a typically Scottish classically educated and took a degree in the University of Aberdeen in time for the First World War.
He was so small and slight that they would not take him at first. So he puffed out his chest and held his breath to persuade them of his determination and was sent to the front in 1915. After an interruption with trench fever he got back again and, with a colleague who was as small as he was, worked as a stretcher bearer until the end of the war. They were so small that shells went over them; he said his companion was the bravest man he had ever known; when I met the man, he said the doctor was a class of his own for wearing a notably Passchendaele, thigh deep in mud.
He hardly talked about those experiences and I used to wonder why. The answer was that he loved it. After his narrow practical upbringing it was freedom; it was company; and it was loyalty. For him it was a turning point.
So when he got back, slightly disabled from mauling part of his spine in a shell hole, he went back to the university and trained as a doctor. He became a Church of Scotland medical missionary and went to Africa, where he learned to make bricks, built a hospital and worked with the mission in Blantyre. But he met the White Fathers, and decided to become a Roman Catholic. So terrible was the disgrace that his father, an elder of the Kirk, never raised his eyes again in Aberdeen. He found his way back, married a fellow student and they set out for Malaya.
He did all sorts of jobs in the Federated Malay States, as superintendent at the European hospital and for a time as the superintendent at a leper settlement. During which time one of his daughters was born. Again, he loved it; he built a village and a church and thought of staying but handed it back to the man whose post it really was and returned to his work as medical officer of health in Malacca. Reluctantly in 1934, with a family to look after, he decided to come home.
And that was another career. After some false starts in the Midlands he acquired a practice in the West of Scotland at Glasgow. When much later I found myself in Glasgow, I found myself captivated by the stories; for they were no different from his, stories of tinkers and undertakers and pubs and districts. He spent his few leisure times fishing and reading, and have since met a retired journalist and artists who used to go out with him and found it an education. He could quote easily, make up jokes in Latin or Greek, knew a lot about wild life and a great deal about biology.